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EDITORIAL.

To the members of the Illinois State Historical Society:

For some time the Illinois State Historical Society has been considering the advisability of beginning the publication of a regular bulletin or circular which will be a sort of "Journal of Information" for the use of the members of the society. The long and necessary delay in the publication of the annual volume of the society's transactions makes such a publication a necessity. Our secretary has in her annual reports for several years past, urged upon the society the desirability of it. At a meeting of the directors of the society held during the sessions of our last annual meeting (1908) a committee was appointed for the purpose of considering the matter, and with a strong recommendation to the committee that a circular or bulletin be published if found practicable. The committee consisted of the president, the secretary, Mr. Andrew Russell of Jacksonville, and Capt. J. H. Burnham of Bloomington. This little pamphlet is the result of the deliberations of this committee.

Other societies in all parts of the United States are issuing such periodicals. The Illinois State Historical Society has for some years issued annually a little leaflet containing the names of the officers and committees of the society, and the committee feels that the time has come when it is possible to make this little leaflet serve this and other purposes. It has seemed best to call the publication the "Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society." This number will meet at least two of the present needs of the society. It furnishes as usual, the names of the officers and committees, it also contains an article written for the purpose of aiding the local committees in the celebration of the semi-centennial of the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858. It is expected that this publication will be continued as occasion arises and as opportunities present themselves. It is hoped that current events in the historical work of this and other states may be reported and reviews of historical publications be published. It will perhaps, develop that reports of the meetings, and items of interest in regard to local historical societies may be published, and that each number will contain at least one paper or address of real historic value and interest, and that a considerable amount of bibliographical work can be done through its columns. The committee hopes that the Journal may be a regular quarterly publication, but that will have to be decided by the necessities

and opportunities of the future. The secretary will be glad to hear from the members of the society in regard to the publication of the periodical, and to receive suggestions as to its scope and future.

The committee desires to call attention to the suggestions contained in the report of our secretary; and lastly to the address to the local committees on the semi-centennial of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. The publication of this circular or address on this latter subject is one of the principal reasons for the publication of this Journal. All the members of the society are urged to assist in these celebrations and to aid the committees in every possible way.

Very respectfully,

ALFRED ORENDORFF,
JESSIE PALMER WEBER,
ANDREW RUSSELL,
J. H. BURNHAM,
Special Committee on the Publication of a Periodical.